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Senate panels approves identity theft package

Lansing — The Judiciary Committee unanimously approved the main parts of the identity theft package today, announced Sen. Mike Bishop (R-Rochester), the main backer of the package.

“I heard too many similar horror stories from ID theft victims during our hearings on this growing crime,” Bishop said. “This package goes a long way to protecting consumers by giving them the tools to fix their credit histories and crack down on identity thieves.”

During committee hearings, victims, including two from Rochester, told senators how they had their personal information taken and used to open fraudulent loan, credit card and cell phone accounts.

In one man’s case, he was left to pay back thousands of dollars in loans and still has problems with his credit cards despite how he proved conclusively years ago that he wasn’t responsible for the charges. Other victims reported problems in getting police to investigate such crimes because existing state law doesn’t make clear which police agencies have jurisdiction.

Senate Republicans have made protecting Michigan consumers identity theft a top priority during the fall legislative session.

The package now head to the full Senate for consideration.

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